

Message Text

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53

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-02 H-01 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9750

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PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL, PERSONS AND QUACKENBUSH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ILO

SUBJECT: ILO: WCL ALLEGES VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN
PUERTO RICO

1. IN LETTER SIGNED BY LAGERGREN, DEPUTY CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS DEPARTMENT, ILO HAS FORWARDED TO SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR USG COMMENT ALLEGATIONS BY WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR OF VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN PUERTO RICO (SEE PARA 2 BELOW). ILO HAS REQUESTED SPEEDY REPLY BECAUSE ALLEGATIONS CONCERN HUMAN LIFE AND PERSONAL FREEDOM. ILO WILL FORWARD TO SECRETARY OF LABOR FURTHER INFORMATION IF SUCH INFORMATION IS SUBMITTED BY WCL.

2. TEXT OF WCL LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 28, 1974 FOLLOWS. BEGIN
TEXT. DEAR SIR,

JOSE LUIS FIGUEROA, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE HERMANDAD DE TRABAJADORES OF PUERTO RICO WAS ASSASSINATED IN TRULY ATROCIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES ON 19 NOVEMBER. HE WAS AT THE HEAD OF A GROUP OF WORKERS STRIKING IN SUPPORT OF THEIR CLAIMS. IN ORDER TO DISRUPT AND STOP THE STRIKE, THE OWNERS OF THE WORKS CONCERNED AND THE GOVERNMENTAL REPRESSION FORCES USED SPECIAL
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SQUADS OF ARMED MEN, ONE OF WHOM KILLED THE TRADE UNION LEADER

UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED.

IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS MATTER, WE SUBMIT A COMPLAINT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO FOR CHARACTERIZED VIOLATION OF FREEDOM AND REQUEST YOU TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE YOU ADVANCE NOTICE OF ANOTHER SCANDALOUS EVENT WHICH OCCURRED SOME DAYS BEFORE THIS ASSASSINATION: ELEVEN LEADERS OF THE UNION INDEPENDIENTE AUTENTICA DE ACUEDUCTOS WERE APPREHENDED AND IMPRISONED FOR FIVE DAYS IN AN ATTEMPT TO FORCE THEM TO ACCEPT INADMISSIBLE CONDITIONS, CONTRARY TO THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKERS, DURING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCEDURES.

(SIGNED): J. BRUCK, SECRETARY GENERAL. END TEXT.ABRAMS

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Message Attributes

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